

# Wayne Allard

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## ALLARD SUPPORTS PILT FUNDING LETTER SENT TO SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OF INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS SEEKS INCREASE TO \$245 MILLION

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) has sent a letter to the Chairman of Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, U.S. Senator Conrad Burns (R-MT) expressing his support of increased funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program.

PILT are Federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable Federal lands within their boundaries. These payments help local governments carry out such vital services as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations. PILT payments are one of the ways that the Federal government can fulfill its role of being a good neighbor to local communities. This is an especially important role for the BLM, which manages more public land than any other Federal agency. The state of Colorado was the recipient of over \$14.5 million in PILT payments in 2002.

“I have written this letter to the Interior Appropriations Chairman to strongly urge the committee’s support of increasing PILT funding,” said Allard. “Even in these tough budget times, I believe that this increase is a vital part to keeping these communities funded to meet the increasing demands for essential services,” added Allard.

PILT payments are made annually for tax-exempt Federal lands administered by the BLM, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (all agencies of the Interior Department), the U.S. Forest Service (part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture), and for Federal water projects and some military installations.

A copy of the letter is attached.

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